GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1938
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Buffer Zone for Fishermen
Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that the traditional fishermen have been using ocean waters with depth ranging from 200-500 mts. as fishing grounds and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government constituted any expert committee to examine the issue, if so, the details thereof including the salient features of the recommendations made by the Committee;
(c) whether the Committee has recommended that ocean waters with depth ranging from 200-500 mts. be declared as buffer zone, if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government has assessed that the recommendations made by the Committee will affect the livelihood of the fishermen; and
(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to ensure livelihood of fishermen community?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)
(a) & (b) The traditional fishermen are mostly fishing in coastal waters within the areas of 100 meter depth zone. The potential up to 100 meter depth is estimated as 3.82 million tonnes, whereas the potential for depth zones between 100-200 meter and 200 - 500 meter are estimated at 0.26 and 0.11 million tonnes respectively, by the Working Group of Experts constituted for revalidation of potential fishery resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone in 2011. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DADF) had earlier constituted an Expert Committee for review of the deep sea fishing policy and guidelines in 2014, and its report revealed that fishing boats mainly in the 15−20 meter size range are targeting the resources in waters between 200 to 500 meter.
(c) It was recommended by the said Expert Committee that waters between 200 to 500 meter depth areas may largely be kept as a buffer zone to augment the resources in both the near-shore waters as well as in the off-shore areas.

(d) & (e) Considering the livelihood concerns of the traditional fishers, the said recommendation of the Expert Committee has not been accepted for implementation. For ensuring livelihood of fishermen community, DADF is implementing an umbrella scheme "Blue Revolution" under which, financial assistance is provided to fishers for various production and welfare oriented fisheries activities to ensure the welfare and livelihood of traditional fishers.

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